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APPROVAL OF LARGE-SCALE UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN

Project title and number:	Town Planning (Supplementary Assistance) (YEM/69/013)
Executing Agency:	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements 1/
Government co-operating agency:	Ministry of Municipalities
Date of approval:	November 1978
Starting date for project operations:	- 2/
Duration:	- 3/
Estimated value of the Government additional input expressed in US dollars:	- 4/
Estimated UNDP additional contribution:	$25 600 5/
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) 6/

1. Background

1. UNDP assistance to the present project was approved in June 1969 against the background of a nascent, but growing, urbanization trend in Yemen. The need for systematic attention to physical planning issues was being particularly felt with regard to Sana'a, the capital city, which was soon to be the location of large Government investments in the sphere of physical infrastructure. In response to a Government request, UNDP financed the services of a town planner and an architect. The former served in the project from May 1970 to April 1973. The latter joined

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1/ The project was executed by the United Nations till 31 December 1978.

2/ Project operations started in May 1970.

3/ Taking into account a twelve-month gap in project activities during 1975-1976, the project's duration, including the period covered under the present Supplementary Assistance, now stands at six years and six months.

4/ The present Supplementary Assistance does not entail any noteworthy increase in the Government input.

5/ With the present Supplementary Assistance, the total UNDP contribution amounts to $391,700.

6/ The UNDP contribution till 31 December 1971 was financed under the erstwhile UNDP/Technical Assistance Programme.

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him in March 1972 and remained with the project till July 1975. The two experts basically performed tasks of an operational nature. Two solid achievements with long-term implications were the creation of a clear awareness within the Government of the importance of physical planning as an anticipatory rather than a remedial activity and the recognition by the Government that traditional building materials and methods, suitably adapted, could be used to advantage in modern Yemen.

2. Following a Government decision to prepare comprehensive master plans for the country's three major cities (Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeidah) with the assistance of consulting firms, UNDP in 1975 provided the project with the services of a short-term consultant in connection with the drafting of the firms' terms of reference. The relevant contracts were awarded by the Government in 1976. In conjunction with these activities, UNDP, at the Government's request, agreed to finance the services of a new town planning expert for the provision of technical back-up to the Government in its dealings with the contractors and, at the institution-building plane, for the gradual building-up of a basic physical planning capacity in the Ministry of Municipalities. The expert joined the project in May 1976 and served in it till December 1977, when he was transferred to the position of Project Manager in a larger-scale and more comprehensive spatial planning UNDP-supported project entitled, Institutional Support in Physical Planning (YEM/77/001), 1/ which was agreed to in the wake of the formal establishment of a Physical Planning Department in the Ministry of Municipalities and the creation of a Central Council for Town and Regional Planning. UNDP assistance on a very limited scale, however, was again provided to the present project in 1978, when UNDP financed a three-person international review panel which evaluated a draft report of the consulting firms entrusted with the master planning mentioned above. The services of three short-term consultants were also financed to help ensure the implementation of the review panel's recommendations.

3. The present Supplementary Assistance provides for a second meeting of the review panel for an evaluation of the revised submissions of the consulting firms. UNDP is also financing the services of two additional short-term consultants - an urban development programmer and an evironmental engineer - for two months each.

II. The project

4. The project was formulated under the erstwhile UNDP/Technical Assistance procedures and its objectives have not been formally defined. It is evident from the foregoing that the project has made significant contributions to the initiation and expansion of spatial planning in Yemen.

5. The additional inputs covered by the present Supplementary Assistance have been described above in paragraph 3.

1/ DP/PROJECTS/2082.

6. The expenditure components of the UNDP contribution are as follows:

	Previously approved		Present approval		Total approved	
	m/m	$	m/m	$	m/m	$
Experts	104.2	326 800	5.0	25 000	109.2	351 800
Equipment		16 200				16 200
Miscellaneous		13 000		600		13 600
		356 000		25 600		381 600